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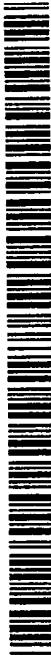
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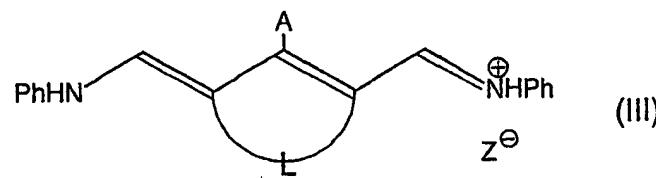
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(57) Abstract: A single-step process for the production of meso-substituted cyanine dyes is provided comprising the reaction of a dye (III), with (a) a methylene compound (IV) or (V) or a quaternary salt (VI) or (VII) and (b) a compound selected from functionalized (hetero)aromatic compounds Ar-B, saturated cyclic amines (IV) and heteroaromatic compounds (V).